

RT Strategies Poll on Iraq

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These are results from survey with a representative sample of 1,000 adults nationwide, conducted November 17-20, 2005. The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 3.1\%$.

In the weekly RT Strategies National Omnibus Survey our firm undertook this past weekend, RT Strategies partners Lance Tarrance and Thomas Riehle test the public's response to news about reaction to the war critics and the debate that ensued. The results, in summary:

- **Fewer than one-in-three adults give credit to Democratic war critics for trying to help the U.S. effort in Iraq, while half (51%) endorse the judgment that the criticisms are leveled only to gain partisan advantage.** Independent voters are more likely to believe Democrats are trying to gain a partisan political advantage by almost a ten-point margin over the alternative: 45% of Independents say Democratic war critics are just seeking partisan advantage, and 36% of Independents think the criticism aims to improve the odds of a U.S. success there.
- **Almost all adults go along with the argument that criticisms of the war by Democratic Senators will hurt troop morale.** Intensity on this point is strong: 44% say this type of criticism hurts troop morale "a lot," and overall 70% fear criticism hurts morale. The feeling is shared by Democrats, by a two-to-one margin (55% say it hurts morale and 21% say it helps morale).
- **The plurality of Americans agree (49%) with the current strategy in Iraq: withdrawing troops ONLY when the Iraqi military and government meet specific goals and objectives.** Immediate withdrawal regardless of the consequences wins the support of 16%, while another 30% like the idea of a fixed timetable for withdrawal.

These questions were part of a multi-focused survey asking questions about many issues in the news and in the national policy debate. Each week, RT Strategies interviews 1,000 adults nationwide as part of its National Omnibus Survey, with interviews conducted Thursday through Sunday and results delivered Monday. Call Thomas Riehle or Lance Tarrance at (571) 721 0201, or email either Thomas.riehle@riehle-tarrance.com or lance.tarrance@riehle-tarrance.com.